

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-29, and 31-34 remain in this application. Claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 29, and 31-34 are allowed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-28 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,935,529 (Saito). The Examiner states that Saito discloses supports of titania, zinc oxide, or magnesium oxide impregnated with noble metals such as platinum, palladium, and iridium. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to requires a catalyst for converting NO_x in exhaust gases to NH₃ comprising at least one metal oxide impregnated with at least one noble metal, the metal oxide selected from the group consisting of Fe₂O₃, Cr₂O₃, a combination of Fe₂O₃ and La-γ-β-Al₂O₃, and a combination of Fe₂O₃ and CeO₂, the noble metal selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd, Ir, and Rh. Applicants respectfully submit that the aforesaid required elements are not set forth in Saito. Accordingly, the present invention is not anticipated by Saito.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-28 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,907,968 (Kobylinski). The Examiner states that Kobylinski teaches supports of magnesia and titania impregnated with metal ruthenates. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to requires a catalyst for converting NO_x in exhaust gases to NH₃ comprising at least one metal oxide impregnated with at least one noble metal, the metal oxide selected from the group consisting of Fe₂O₃, Cr₂O₃, a combination of Fe₂O₃ and La-γ-β-Al₂O₃, and a combination of Fe₂O₃ and CeO₂, the noble metal selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd, Ir, and Rh. Applicants respectfully submit that the aforesaid required elements are not set forth in Kobylinski. Accordingly, the present invention is not anticipated by Kobylinski.

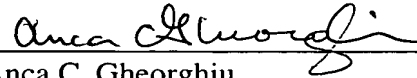
Based upon the above remarks applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Appl. No. 09/685,384
Amdt. dated: 4/8/03
Reply to Office action of: 9/16/03

Please direct any questions or comments to Anca C. Gheorghiu at (607) 974-3322.

Respectfully submitted,



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